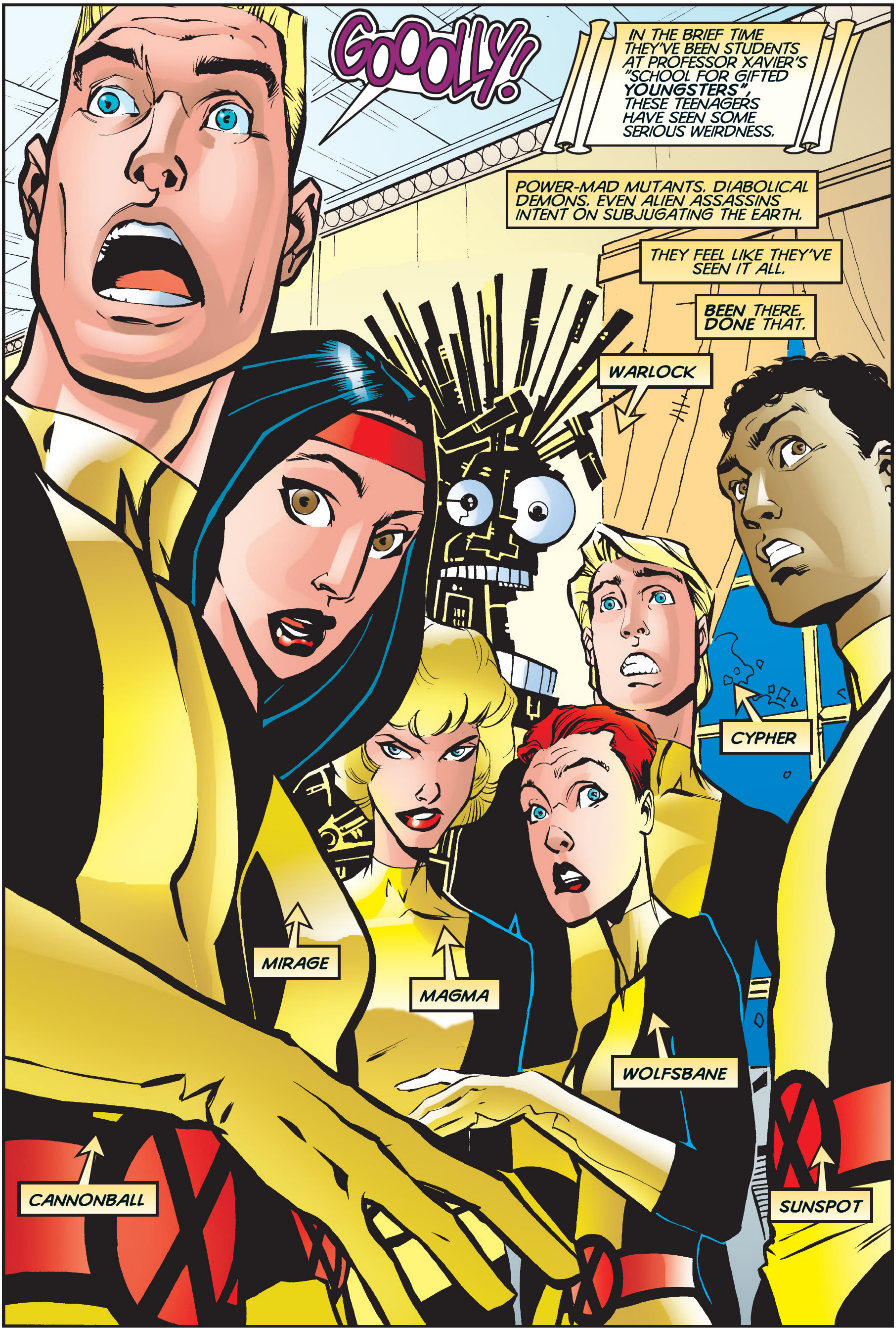
MARVEL COMICS
THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMICS!
THE NEW MUTANTS:
TRUTH or DEATH 2 of 3
DEC #2
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
YORK
The POSSESSION!
RAAB CHANG PENNINGTON


GOOOLLY!
IN THE BRIEF TIME THEY'VE BEEN STUDENTS AT PROFESSOR XAVIER'S "SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS", THESE TEENAGERS HAVE SEEN SOME SERIOUS WEIRDNESS.
POWER-MAD MUTANTS. DIABOLICAL DEMONS. EVEN ALIEN ASSASSINS INTENT ON SUBJUGATING THE EARTH.
THEY FEEL LIKE THEY'VE SEEN IT ALL.
BEEN THERE. DONE THAT.
WARLOCK
CYPHER
MIRAGE
MAGMA
WOLFSBANE
CANNONBALL
SUNSPOT

NOW, STANDING FACE-TO-FACE WITH THEIR PRESENT-DAY SELVES, THE PAST MEMBERS OF THE NEW MUTANTS REALIZE, QUITE UNDENIABLY...
...THEY AIN'T SEEN NOTHIN' YET!
KARMA
SUNSPOT
DOUGLOCK
MOONSTAR
CANNONBALL
WOLFSBANE
STAN LEE PRESENTS: THE NEW MUTANTS: THEN AND NOW IN:
FAMILY MATTERS
BEN RAAB WRITER ★ BERNARD CHANG PENCILS ★ MARK PENNINGTON PENCILS
RS&COMICRAFT'S LIZ AGRAPHIOTIS LETTERS ★ TOM VINCENT COLORS ★ JAYE GARDNER EDITOR ★ BOB HARRAS EDITOR
★ BASED ON ORIGINAL CHARACTERS - CREATED BY CHRIS CLAREMONT AND BOB McLEOD
*STRATEGIC HAZARD INTERNATIONAL ESPIONAGE LOGISTICS DIVISION --XI'AN WAS CAPTIVE DURING NEW MUTANTS #7-31. JAYE
S-SO, I'M GONNA BE AN UNDERCOVER S.H.I.E.L.D. AGENT SOMEDAY?*
AND YOU KICKED BUTT, TOO.
TOO COOL!
≈SNIFF, SNIFF≈! WHAT'S THA' STENCH?
'TIS PERFUME, YE SILLY BAIRN! THE BOYS LUV IT!
OCH, 'TIS THE DEVIL'S ODOR! I COULD NE'ER...
HOW ARE YOU -- Uh, AM I -- STILL SOLAR-CHARGED?
THE SUN'S DOWN.
IT'S A LITTLE ASKANI TRICK CABLE TAUGHT ME.
"ASKANI" WHAT..?
"CABLE" WHO..?
YOU MUST BE XI'AN -- THE ONE CALLED KARMA. I SEE YOU DID NOT DIE LIKE YOUR FRIENDS ASSUMED.
WHILE I WAS A PRISONER OF THE SHADOW KING, AMARA AQUILA...I WAS "DEAD" IN MANY WAYS.**
YA MEAN, Ah MADE IT..? AH'M A FULL-FLEDGED X-MAN?
YUP. Ah've GOT THE "COLORS" T'PROVE IT.

KENTUCKY-NATIVE SAM GUTHRIE IS A SIMPLE FELLA WITH A SIMPLE DREAM.
MAKE HIS FAMILY PROUD BY BEING THE BEST STUDENT AT XAVIER'S.
KNOWING THAT SOMEDAY HE'S GONNA GRADUATE TO THE "SENIOR CLASS"...
WOOHOO!
BOOM
WATCH IT! YA DUMB HAYSEED!
...THE APTLY-DUBBED CANNONBALL CAN HARDLY CONTAIN HIMSELF...
MUCH TO HIS CHAGRIN.
Umm... Err...SOMEONE MIND GIVIN' ME A HAND HERE..?
Ah THINK Ah'm STUCK.
HA! SEE WHAT ALL HIS STUDYING GETS HIM? NOTHING!
SIT TIGHT, SAMUEL --
-- I'LL GET YOU DOWN.
MADONNA MIA! I CAN FLY?
PERHAPS YOU'LL WANT TO STUDY MORE NOW -- Eh, ROBERTO?

GUESS I'D BEST CONCENTRATE ON *NOW* INSTEAD *O'LATER* -- Huh, DANI?
BRIGHT BOY. YOU'LL GO FAR... ***NOT!***
THIS IS NOT THE TIME FOR ***TEASING*** LIKE CHILDREN.
ILLYANA IS GOING TO DIE! WE MUST DO *SOMETHING* ABOUT IT!
OKAY ***MAGMA*** -- BUT WHAT?
I DO NOT KNOW... PERHAPS THAT -- THAT -- THING COULD TELL US.
I HOPE...
PRATT
I -- AM **DOUGLOCK.** A MEMBER OF THE *COLLECTIVE TECHNO-ORGANIC* RACE KNOWN AS --
THE ***PHALANX.*** *SELF'S PEOPLE...*
...THOUGH NOT AT ALL LIKE SELF'S PEOPLE. SELF HAS NEVER SEEN ONE SO ***"ADVANCED."***
QUERY! HOW IS IT YOU WEAR SELFFRIEND DOUG'S FACE..?
HAS SOMETHING HAPPENED TO SELFFRIENDDOUG IN THE FUTURE?
DOUGLOCK DOESN'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY. HE COULD TELL THEM THE ***TRUTH...***
...THAT ***CYPHER*** *IS GOING TO DIE A TRAGIC DEATH DEFENDING HIS FRIEND, WOLFSBANE...**
...AND THAT HE HAS ASSUMED HIS FORM AS A GESTURE OF RESPECT FOR THE YOUNG MUTANT'S SELFLESS HEROISM.
ALAS, WORDS DON'T COME EASILY TO THIS EXTRATERRESTRIAL, AND HE FEARS THE IMPACT HIS MAY HAVE.
STILL, THERE IS ***ANOTHER*** *WAY TO EXPRESS HIMSELF...*
LINK WITH ME, I CAN SHOW YOU. AND ***YOU*** TOO, DOUGLAS RAMSEY...
M-ME..? WHY..?
Uhh... ***LATER,*** LOCK...
*TRAGEDY STRUCK IN ***NEW MUTANTS #60***

...I WANNA SHOW DOUGIE OUR NEW *SHI'AR COMPUTERS.*
OCH, I *MUST* PROTECT HIM FROM THE TRUTH...
...JUST LIKE HE PROTECTED ME FROM THAT SPALEEN *ANIMATOR'S* BULLET.
WELL NOW, M'FUTURE SELF SEEMS RATHER CHUMMY WITH THE RAMSEY LAD.
HE IS QUITE THE *BONNY* ONE... Hmm...
...IS THIS A *FORESHADOWIN'* O' THINGS TAE COME, PERHAPS..?
WELL, MUCH AS IT'S BEEN GREAT MEETIN' *YOU* GUYS -- Umm, *US* GUYS -- WE REALLY SHOULD GET BACK TO *OUR* TIME.
XAVIER WOULDN'T BE HAPPY IF HE KNEW WE'RE MESSIN' WITH THE *SPACE-TIME CONTINUUM* LIKE THIS!
NO DOUBT!
"NOW, IF WE CAN JUST FIND *ILLYANA.*"
CALL OFF THE SEARCH PARTY, POCAHONTAS.
ME AND MY *BIG BRO -- MIKHAIL --* ARE RIGHT HERE.
Oh, AND *P.S.* --?
I'M *NOT* GOING ANYWHERE.
OKAY, IS IT ME -- OR DID THIS JUST TAKE A TURN FOR THE *WEIRD?*
AH'LL SAY...NOT ONLY IS MIKHAIL ONE OF THE *SICKEST* FOES THE X-MEN EVER FACED --
-- BUT HE'S *SUPPOSED* TO BE *DEAD!*

YOUR FRIENDS' FEAR IS *PALPABLE.*
PERHAPS IT IS BEST TO ***NOT*** INCLUDE THEM IN OUR ENDEAVOR, SISTER. THEY MAY NOT... ***UNDERSTAND...*** WHAT WE ARE TRYING TO ACHIEVE.
CHILL, MICKEY. THOSE AREN'T JUST MY BEST BUDS! THEY'RE AS MUCH MY ***FAMILY*** AS YOU AND *PIOTR.**
SURELY ***FAMILY*** MEANS AS MUCH TO ***YOU*** AS IT DOES TO ME.
*PIOTR, EXCALIBUR'S COLOSSUS -- J.
MORE THAN YOU CAN IMAGINE, LITTLE SNOWFLAKE.
HUGGING HIS YOUNG SISTER CLOSE, THIS FORMER **SOVIET COSMONAUT** SENSES SOMETHING STIR WITHIN HIM.
SOMETHING LONG SINCE BURIED. SOMETHING HE NEVER ONCE EXPECTED TO FEEL UPON RETURNING TO HIS HOME WORLD.
IT IS THE WARMING EMBRACE OF **SALVATION.**
A SENSATION HE WILL DO ANYTHING TO SUSTAIN.
ANYTHING.
COME, ILLYANINKA... INTRODUCE ME TO YOUR ***NEW*** "FAMILY."

WE'VE GOT SOME CAPTIAL *"T"* TROUBLE HERE, DANI.
MIKHAIL'S THE GUY WHO *DROWNED* ALL THE *MORLOCKS...**
NO *DUH,* SAM.
** UNCANNY X-MEN#293 -- J.*
...AND CREATED THE ***GENE NATIONALS*** IN SOME TWISTED, DARWINIST ALTERNATE UNIVERSE.*
NO *DUH,* SAM.
*STORM LIMITED *SERIES #1-4* -- J.
Ah RECKON HE FIGGERED OUT A WAY TO USE HIS ***REALITY WARPIN' POWERS*** T'TELEPORT HIMSELF HERE SOMEHOW.
NO *DUH,* SAM.
BUT *WHY..?*
... I DUNNO YET.
NO ***DUH,*** DANI...
WHAT'S IT LIKE IN SPACE?
WILL YOU GO TO ***MARS*** *NEXT?*
HA!
"HA".
"DID YOU LAND ON THE ***MOON?"***

I WISH I WAS THE *"HERO"* YOU CHILDREN MAKE ME OUT TO BE, BUT I AM NOT MORE THAN A HUMBLE ***FARM BOY.***
A SERVANT OF THE STATE LUCKY ENOUGH TO BE GIVEN THE CHANCE TO WALK AMONG THE STARS.
THOUGH NOW, I SOMETIMES ***QUESTION*** IF MY ***MEAGER*** ACHIEVEMENT WAS WORTH IT.
I ***WONDER...*** MIGHT LITTLE ILLYANA YET LIVE HAD I BEEN ***HERE*** -- ON EARTH -- TO WATCH OVER HER?
LIKE SHE AND PIOTR, I TOO, POSSESSED ASTOUNDING ABILITIES.
POWERS THAT MAKE THE ***MATTER*** IN MY HANDS AS MALLEABLE AS ***CLAY*** IN THOSE OF AN EXPERT POTTER.
POWERS THAT I RECENTLY REALIZED COULD PERHAPS SAVE MY SISTER, IF ONLY I COULD REACH HER IN TIME!
THE ***PRESENT*** WAS TOO LATE. I HAD TO SOMEHOW REACH OUT TO HER IN THE ***PAST.****
I TOOK AN INSANE CHANCE BY HURLING MY CONSCIOUSNESS INTO THE UNPREDICTABLE VORTEX OF TIME... BUT SEEING YOU ALL HERE NOW, RALLYING TO HER AID, I REALIZE MY GAMBIT PAID OFF.
SO, WHAT DO YOU SAY, CHILDREN -- WILL YOU HELP ME SAVE MY... ***OUR...*** SISTER?
*LAST ISSUE -- *JAYE.*
Ummm... "WE'LL BE RIGHT BACK AFTER THESE MESSAGES."
PRATT
YO

SO, HERE'S THE "MILLION DOLLAR QUESTION," FOLKS...
DO WE -- OR DO WE NOT -- WORK ALONGSIDE A TOTAL PSYCHO AND MESS WITH HISTORY... RISKING THE FUTURE AS WELL --
-- JUST TO SAVE OUR FRIEND'S LIFE? I VOTE "NO."
I'VE NAE FACED DEATH LIKE YE DID AS A VALKYRIE, DANI. IT SCARES ME SO.
I HATE THINKIN' WHAT'S HAPPENIN' TAE ILLYANA'S SOUL IN THE AFTERLIFE, AN' I FEEL SO GUILTY F'R NAE BEIN' A BETTER FRIEND TAE HER WHILE SHE WAS ALIVE.
SO, IF THIS IS MUH CHANCE TAE MAKE AMENDS...
AND GIVE HER ANOTHER SHOT AT THE LIFE THE BLOODY LEGACY VIRUS STOLE FROM HER..?
I VOTE "YES."
BUT HELPIN', MIKHAIL DO IT IS LIKE SELLIN' OUR OWN SOULS T'THE DEVIL HIMSELF!
SURE, HE'S HER BIG BROTHER. BUT SO IS COLOSSUS, AND AH DOUBT HE'D MUCK WITH HISTORY -- EVEN IF IT WOULD BRING HIS SISTER BACK!
Ah MEAN, Y'ALL SHOULDA HEARD THE UNGODLY THINGS STORM TOL' ME ABOUT THIS FREAK AND THAT DIMENSION HE WAS TRAPPED IN!
MAKES MAH FLESH CRAWL JUST THINKIN' ABOUT IT! SO, AH'M VOTIN' "NO."
LOOK, ILLYANA FREAKED ME OUT AT FIRST, BUT I LEARNED TO OVERCOME MY FEAR AS I GOT TO KNOW HER.
I WISH IT HAD NOT TAKEN SO LONG.
CALL IT A LINGERING GUILTY CONSCIENCE FOR NOT HAVING BEEN MORE OPEN-MINDED --
-- BUT I VOTE "YES."

LOOKS LIKE A TIE F'R US ORIGINAL STUDENTS, XI'AN. YER THE *"TIE-BREAKER."*
DO WE RISK ALTERING THE COURSE OF THIS TIMELINE -- AND OUR VERY EXISTENCE..?
OR, DO WE SAY ONE LAST GOOD-BYE AND LET HISTORY PLAY ITSELF OUT THE WAY WE KNOW IT'S ***SUPPOSED*** TO...?
OF ALL THE NEW MUTANTS ASSEMBLED, NONE UNDERSTAND THE CRIPPLING AGONY EXPERIENCED FROM THE LOSS OF A SIBLING AS WELL AS ***XI'AN COY MANH.***
IT IS A PAIN THAT SHE LONG ENDURED WHILE HER BROTHER AND SISTER -- ***LEONG*** *AND* ***NGA*** *-- WERE MISSING, PRESUMED* ***DEAD.***
*A PAIN VISITED UPON HER AGAIN WHEN THEY WERE FINALLY RETURNED TO HER, PERVERTED IN BODY AND SOUL.**
*A PAIN THAT SHOOTS THROUGH HER THIS VERY MOMENT...***CRIPPLING** *HER.*
I --I... JUST... DON'T... KNOW...
*IN THE ***BEAST*** LIMITED SERIES -- ***JAYE.***
NOT THAT I EXPECT TO BE ***INCLUDED*** IN THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS -- SEEING AS HOW I NEVER EVEN MET ILLYANA BEFORE TODAY -- BUT YOU BETTER DECIDE *NOW.*
I'M DETECTING SOME STRANGE ***PSIONIC REVERBERATIONS*** EMANATING FROM MIKHAIL.
I THINK HE'S GETTING A MITE *ANTSY*...
REALLY..? SOUNDS LIKE THE MAN HAS SOMETHING TO ***HIDE.***
I SAY WE FIND OUT WHAT THAT IS. WE BREAK ON *THREE...*
ONE... TWO...

"...THREE..!"
THOUGH IT'S BEEN YEARS SINCE THEY'VE STOOD TOGETHER IN BATTLE...
...THE FOUNDING CLASS OF NEW MUTANTS STRIKE AS BOTH THEIR MENTORS --
-- **PROFESSOR X** AND **MAGNETO** -- TAUGHT THEM.
AS A **TEAM.**
YOLK
PRATT
AS A **FAMILY.**
AS **ONE.**
WOE BE TO THE POOR FOOL WHO DARES **RESIST** THEM.
ILLYANA! TO ME, SISTER! THEY MUST NOT STOP US!
DON'T SWEAT IT, BRO.
THEY *CAN'T.*
TO SOME, THIS MAY SOUND LIKE A VAIN **BOAST.**
BUT TO THE SIX CHARGING TEENAGERS WHO RECOGNIZE THE SUDDENLY-CONJURED **SOULSWORD** --
-- THE CONSUMMATE EXPRESSION OF ILLYANA RASPUTIN'S TERRIFYING ARCANE POWER...
...THOSE WORDS ARE TANTAMOUNT TO A **DECLARATION OF WAR!**

THUS, IS THE BATTLE JOINED IN EARNEST...
HOW COULDJA DO THIS? ILLYANA'S YER FRIEND!
YA SHOULD *WANT* T'HELP HER!
Ah *DO*... Uh... SAM -- BUT IT'S NOT THAT SIMPLE.
EVERYTHIN' THAT HAPPENED TO US OVER THE YEARS HAPPENED FOR A REASON. Ah UNDERSTAND WHY YA CAN'T SEE THIS NOW --
BAWHAM
-- BUT REWRITIN' HISTORY AIN'T THE WAY T'LEARN THAT LESSON!
CRASH
Oh, JEEZ, I'LL BET THAT *SMARTED*, EVEN THROUGH HIS... UH... *MAH*... IMPENETRABLE BLASTIN' FIELD.
ONE THING Ah STILL DON'T GET -- HOW IS IT NONE O'US *REMEMBER* ANY O'THIS HAPPENIN'?
Ah MEAN, COMIN' FACE T'FACE WITH YER PAST SELF *AIN'T* THE KINDA THING A BODY --
-- *FORGETS!*
SMASH
GUTHRIE!
THAT'S MY *BEST FRIEND*, MISTER! IF YOU'VE HURT HIM, I SWEAR --
-- FUTURE SELF OR NO --
-- *I'LL KILL YOU!*

THIS IS RIDICULOUS! WE CAN'T FIGHT *OURSELVES!*
GRRR
I DON'T KNOW *WHAT'S* WRONG WITH YOU PEOPLE...
...BUT YOU'RE NOT GETTING ANYWHERE NEAR ILLYANA AS LONG AS *I* HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY ABOUT IT!
DO TELL.
NICE *"DEMON BEAR."* A BIT *CRUDE* COMPARED TO MY ***PSYCHIC ARROWS...*** BUT CUTE.
LIKE, THAT'S SUPPOSED TO ***SCARE*** ME?
I DON'T *THINK* SO.
UHHNNHH!
SHAZOW
AND SO THIS STRANGE BATTLE RAGES.
SELF AGAINST **SELF.**
FRIEND AGAINST **FRIEND...**
ROBERTO -- MAGMA'S SPROUTING ***VOLCANOES*** EVERYWHERE! SHE'LL DESTROY THE MANSE!
YE TWO WERE *CLOSE* -- CAN YE NAE ***REASON*** WIT'HER, LAD?
IF I *COULD,* RAHNE, DON'T YOU THINK I *WOULD?* SHE'S OUT OF CONTROL!
I'LL NOT *"REASON"* WITH THE LIKES OF YOU, ***CUR!***
IN *OUR* TIME, YOU AND ILLYANA ARE FAR LESS THAN FRIENDS. AND IF YOUR ACTIONS TODAY ARE ANY INDICATION --
-- THEN IT IS ***YOU*** WHO SHALL LIKELY BE RESPONSIBLE FOR HER DEATH SOMEDAY!
FWOOSH
YEARGH!

YE'RE WRONG, AMARA!
WEE ILLYANA FELL VICTIM TAE TRAGEDY, *AYE* -- BUT IT'S NAE BECAUSE O'ANYTHIN' **WE** DID!
SHE WAS AN UNFORTUNATE CASUALTY O' THE WORST **PLAGUE** THE MUTANT KIND HAS E'ER SUFFERED!
FLASH
A PLAGUE KNOWN AS THE ***LEGACY VIRUS!***
*A PLAGUE THAT'S NOW KILLIN' M'VERRA OWN **MUM!****
KRAK
WHOULF!
*EXCALIBUR'S *DR. MOIRA MACTAGGERT.*
RAHNE.. DOUGIE.. LISTEN TAE ME! I WANT TAE HELP YE, BUT THERE'S SOMETHING YE NEED TAE KNOW... ABOUT MIKHAIL --
AWOO..?
IGNORE HER, RAHNE. SHE'S OBVIOUSLY NOTHING LIKE YOU!
AFTER ALL, WHAT KIND OF INHUMANE MONSTER WOULD LET THEIR FRIENDS...
DIE WITHOUT ***TRYING*** TO PROTECT HER..?
OCH, DOUG -- PLEASE DINNAE SAY SUCH THINGS...
*CYPHER'S **CAUSTIC** WORDS CUT THE ELDER WOLFSBANE SO DEEP...*
*...HER YOUNGER COUNTERPART'S **ENHANCED SENSES** CAN ALMOST SMELL THE BLOOD BEING DRAWN FROM HER FUTURE SELF'S HEART, AND IT GIVES HER PAUSE.*
*SURELY, THAT IS NOT THE REACTION OF A **"MONSTER"** --*
*-- **IS** IT..?*

SO, ONLY **SOME** OF US ARE ALLOWED TO COME BACK FROM THE DEAD -- *Huh,* XI'AN?
AND **YOU** GUYS GET TO DECIDE WHO..? ***WRONG.***
WARLOCK -- KEEP THAT VIETNAMESE ***HYPOCRITE*** FROM LAYING A FINGER ON MY BROTHER.
GOTCHA, SELFFRIENDMAGIK! SELF'S ***TECHNO-ORGANIC BODY*** *WILL SAFEGUARD MAGIKSELF'S SIBLING!*
DO NOT WORRY, MIKHAILRASPUTIN... SELF WILL NOT INFECT YOU WITH SELF'S ***TRANSMODE VIRUS!***
HOW ***REASSURING.***
I SENSE THAT GIRL -- ***KARMA*** -- IS A *RELUCTANT* WARRIOR IN THIS FRAY.
PERHAPS I CAN USE THAT TO ***MY ADVANTAGE.***
THOUGH I WAS GONE WHEN YOU RETURNED FROM ***LIMBO,*** ILLYANA -- SURELY YOU LEARNED OF THE ***POWER*** OF KARMA!
I NEED NOT TOUCH SOMEONE TO ***POSSESS*** THEIR MIND AND BEND IT TO MY WILL -- AS I DO YOURS NOW!
GAAII!
WITCH! GET... OUT... OF... MY... ***HEAD!***
YOLK
C'EST INCROYABLE! HER RESISTANCE IS STAGGERING!
HER ***MIND*** -- SO ***DARK...*** SO ***FOUL...*** SO FULL OF ***EVIL!***
DON'T THINK I -- OR ***ANYONE*** -- CAN CONTROL HER! YET, I MUST... AT LEAST... ***TRY!***

NO! WHAT'S THIS? THE *DEMONS* WITHIN HER...SPILLING INTO ME! CONJURING *IMAGES...*
LEONG..? NGA..? OH, DEAR *BROTHER...* POOR, SWEET *SISTER* -- ***FORGIVE*** ME!
WHAT HAVE I DONE?
AIIEEE!
COULDN'T HANDLE THE ***GUILT*** -- COULDJA, XI'AN?
PITY.
FORGIVE ME...MERCY... FORGIVE ME..!
KARMA..?!
Y'KNOW, IN THE SHORT TIME I'VE KNOWN ***KITTY PRYDE,*** I'VE FOUND HER TO BE A DECENT JUDGE OF ***CHARACTER.****
BUT SEEING THE INDECENT WAY YOU'RE TREATING YOUR TEAMMATES -- ALL FOR YOUR OWN ***SELFISH DESIRES*** --
-- I CAN'T BELIEVE SHE WAS EVER STUPID ENOUGH TO CALL YOU *"FRIEND!"*
*A.K.A. HIS EXCALIBUR TEAMMATE, ***SHADOWCAT!*** --*JAYE.*
WHSS WHSS
SQUARK!
SHUT UP, YOU WALKING ***APPLIANCE!***
*JUST... **SHUT... UP!***
YOU THINK I'M BEING *"SELFISH,"* ALIEN --? LET'S SEE HOW SELFISH ***YOU*** GET --
SHRIP

-- WHEN FACED WITH YOUR OWN MORTALITY!
1001001... SQUARK!... 1001001...
ZARK
ARRGH!
LET'S NOT AND SAY WE DID -- "K," YANA?
DOUGLOCK MAY BE NEW IN TOWN, BUT HE AND RAHNE SEEM TO HAVE A LITTLE "LOVE JONES" GOIN' FOR EACH OTHER.
HACKING HIM TO TECHNO-BITS WOULD REALLY BOGART THEIR BUZZ, KNOW WHAT I MEAN?
BESIDES, HE'S A HECKUVA LOT MORE WELCOME HERE THAN YOU ARE RIGHT NOW.
SO PACK UP THE PICNIC BASKET AND THROW AWAY YOUR TRASH, KIDS... 'CUZ THE FIELD TRIP'S OVER.
TIME TO GO HOME.
NO, DANIELLE.
URK!
XI'AN..? ARE YOU MENTAL --?

WHAT THE HECK'RE YOU *DOIN'*, GIRLFRIEND..?
THE *RIGHT* THING.
I *FAILED* MY TWIN BROTHER **TRANH**... I *FAILED* MY PRECIOUS LITTLE LEONG AND NGA.*
*TRANH DIED IN THE CLASSIC ***MARVEL TEAM-UP*** #100-- J.
NO MORE WILL I ALLOW A FAMILY TO BE DESTROYED BY MY ACTIONS. *THIS TIME* --
-- I'M **SAVING** ONE.
YEAH. **RIGHT.**
IMPOSSIBLE... TO *CONCENTRATE*... WITH HER IN MY MIND!
GOTTA FOCUS...AS **MASSIVE**... A PSI-ARROW...AS POSSIBLE --
"-- AND PRAY IT DOESN'T **LOBOTOMIZE** ONE OF MY BEST FRIENDS!"
FZASH
SWIFT AND STRAIGHT, THE PROJECTILE FLIES, TESTAMENT TO THIS CHEYENNE'S EXPERT MARKSMANSHIP.
IT'S A PERFECT ***BULLSEYE*** *WAITING TO HAPPEN.*
YET ONE THAT -- ***MUCH TO HER TEAMMATES' AMAZEMENT*** *-- NEVER EVEN COMES CLOSE TO THE INTENDED MARK.*
YOLK
SACRE COEUR! A **PSI-SHIELD?**
C'EST IMPOSSIBLE! NEVER BEFORE HAVE I BEEN ABLE TO GENERATE SUCH DEFENSES!
Hmm... FIRST, I MADE THE PEOPLE AT THE AIRPORT SEE DOUGLOCK AS **HUMAN**... AND *NOW THIS.**
MONSIEUR LE PROFESSOR ONCE MENTIONED THE POSSIBILITY OF MY MANIFESTING GREATER ***TELEPATHIC*** ABILITIES. I WONDER, COULD THAT BE FINALLY HAPPENING?
AND IF SO -- WHY ***NOW..?***
*LAST ISSUE -- ***JAYE.***

WHAM
DANG! BOBBY'S PEEVED!
LUCKY F'R ME HE'S NOWHERE NEAR HIS FULL STRENGTH AT NIGHT -- 'CUZ HE'S ACTUALLY *WEAKENIN'* MAH BLAST FIELD!
IF HE COULD CONTROL HIS POWERS LIKE HIS ***CURRENT*** SELF CAN, ***Ah'd*** BE DONE F'R!
THEN AGAIN, IF I *COULDN'T* CONTROL THE ***INTENSITY*** OF MAH BLAST FIELD WHEN AH EXTEND IT OUTWARD LIKE THIS --
BOOM
-- SO WOULD *HE!*
FUNNY, BUT ***"CONTROL ISSUES"*** HAVE ALWAYS BEEN SUNSPOT'S GREATEST PROBLEMS.
HIS *POWERS.* HIS *TEMPER.*
IF HE LEARNED ***T'MASTER*** 'EM, HE COULDA PROBABLY MADE THE GRADE AND BECOME AN *X-MAN,* TOO.
FIGHTIN' ALONGSIDE EACH OTHER JUST LIKE OL' TIMES. WOULDA BEEN KINDA SWEET LIKE WHAT WE'RE DOIN' --
-- TODAY..?
Oh, LORDY...

...Ah'm *DEAD.*
YOU, SAM -- OF ALL PEOPLE -- UNDERSTAND HOW PAINFUL IT IS LOSING A LOVED ONE. YOUR OWN *FATHER* PERISHED SENSELESSLY IN A KENTUCKY COAL MINE.*
WOULDN'T YOU HAVE SACRIFICED EVERYTHING -- YOUR *LIFE*... YOUR VERY *SOUL* -- TO SAVE HIM?
YOU WOULD BE NO DIFFERENT THAN MIKHAIL IF YOU DID.
HE WANTS TO SAVE HIS SISTER... TO HOLD HIS FAMILY TOGETHER... REGARDLESS OF THE COST.
AND *I* AM GOING TO SEE THAT HE DOES. MAY GOD HAVE MERCY ON *MY SOUL.*
*IT HAPPENED IN THE *NEW MUTANTS GRAPHIC NOVEL* -- *JAYE.*
"NOW, *SUNSPOT* -- *STOP CANNONBALL!*"
AS YOU *COMMAND,* XI'AN.
ZAP
NO, BOBBY! DON'T -- *ARRGH!*
TSSSSS
BRUTAL, XI'AN!
I NEVER KNEW YOU HAD IT IN YOU.
THERE ARE *MANY* THINGS YOU DO NOT KNOW ABOUT ME, ILLYANA.
YOLK
REMEMBER THAT.

A *PASSIONATE* SPEECH, GIRL.
YOUR *GUILTY CONSCIENCE* MUST WEIGH *HEAVILY* ON YOUR MIND FOR YOU TO BETRAY YOUR FRIENDS SO.
I UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU ARE GOING THROUGH.
YOU CANNOT *BEGIN* TO UNDERSTAND ME, RASPUTIN. DO NOT ATTEMPT TO TRY.
SLEEP.
VERY WELL. SO LONG AS YOU ENSURE YOUR FRIENDS WON'T DISTURB MY WORK, THEN I'LL LEAVE YOU TO YOUR DEMONS.
SNAP
C'EST BON?
ZZZZZ
YOLK
AS MIKHAIL MANIFESTS HIS MUTANT POWERS, A SURPRISINGLY CHILD-LIKE WAVE OF AWE AND **OPTIMISM** WASHES OVER ILLYANA RASPUTIN...
...WHISKING HER BACK TO A TIME OF LOST **INNOCENCE** -- BEFORE SHE BECAME THE PREMATURELY-AGED DEVILCHILD RULER OF LIMBO.
HE'S HER **BIG BROTHER.**
SPLENDID, ***SPACEEBA***. I BELIEVE I CAN TAKE IT FROM HERE.
THERE'S **NOTHING** IN THE WHOLE WIDE UNIVERSE HE **CAN'T** OR **WON'T** DO TO RESCUE HER FROM HER FATE.

AND SO, FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE DISCOVERING THE TRUTH ABOUT HER DOOMED DESTINY...
...MAGIK SURRENDERS TO HOPE.
Oh, MIKHAIL -- EVERYTHING'S GOING TO BE SO WONDERFUL!
WE'LL FIND PIOTR AND THEN WE'LL ALL GO BACK HOME TO MAMA AND PAPA IN SIBERIA -- TOGETHER!
YOU CAN DO THAT -- CAN'T YOU?
OF COURSE, LITTLE SNOWFLAKE.
ALL WILL BE AS I MAKE IT.
BUT COME -- THERE IS MUCH TO BE DONE...
...AND TIME IS NOT ON OUR SIDE.
AYE -- AN' NEITHER AM I!
I KNOW 'TIS WRONG TO ABANDON A FRIEND IN NEED...
...BUT 'TIS NAE MORE RIGHT TAE BE TURNIN' ON OURSELVES, EITHER!
SOMEBODY'S GOTTA DO SOMETHIN' BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE. AN' FROM THE LOOK O' THINGS, THAT SOMEBODY --
-- ULP! --
-- IS ME!

NEXT ISSUE:

*YER JUST **DYING** TO SEE WHETHER OR NOT MAGIK'S GONNA SURVIVE, AIN'TCHA? BETTER COME BACK NEXT MONTH, TRUE BELIEVERS -- FOR OUR **SENSES-SHATTERING SERIES FINALE** -- OR ELSE YA MAY **NEVER** FIND OUT!*